

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for the earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor (2) and a ceiling (4), said partition having a framework comprised of a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and configured to connect to substantially vertical uprights for connecting the upper and lower rails, the framework configured to fixably connect with a covering (6), the device comprising:

a slide (18) of profiled section, having arms (22) forming a substantially U-shaped section and configured to be joined to the upper rail (10);

a top runner (30) comprised of a rail with two side flanges (36) extending parallel to and within the arms (22) of the U-shaped section of the slide (18) such that the slide (18) and the top runner (30) are movable relative to each other in a vertical direction, the top runner being configured to be fixed to the ceiling (4); and

reversible snap-fitting means between the slide (18) and the top runner (30), the snap-fitting means comprised of first and second matching bosses (26, 38), the first boss projecting inward

respective of the flanges (36) of the top runner, and the second boss projecting inward respective of the arms of the slide,

wherein the slide (18) and top runner (30) are each mounted to move relative to each other in a vertical direction, ~~and~~

wherein the first boss (26) is configured, in a resting position, to locate in the second boss (38), and

wherein the slide (18) comprises, at free ends of each of the arms (22) of the U-shaped section, a rim (24) extending outwardly of the U of the U-shaped section, substantially perpendicular to the arms (22) of the U.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The device according to claim [[4]] 1, further comprising:

an elastic joint (48) adapted to be located between a rim (24) of the slide (18) and the ceiling (4) on which the top runner (30) is fixed.

6. (currently amended) ~~The device according to claim 1,~~ A device for the earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor (2) and a ceiling (4), said partition having a framework comprised of a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and configured to connect to

substantially vertical uprights for connecting the upper and lower rails, the framework configured to fixably connect with a covering (6), the device comprising:

a slide (18) of profiled section, having arms (22) forming a substantially U-shaped section and configured to be joined to the upper rail (10);

a top runner (30) comprised of a rail with two side flanges (36) extending parallel to and within the arms (22) of the U-shaped section of the slide (18) such that the slide (18) and the top runner (30) are movable relative to each other in a vertical direction, the top runner being configured to be fixed to the ceiling (4); and

reversible snap-fitting means between the slide (18) and the top runner (30), the snap-fitting means comprised of first and second matching bosses (26, 38), the first boss projecting inward respective of the flanges (36) of the top runner, and the second boss projecting inward respective of the arms of the slide,

wherein the slide (18) and top runner (30) are each mounted to move relative to each other in a vertical direction,

wherein the first boss (26) is configured, in a resting position, to locate in the second boss (38), and

wherein the top runner (30) also comprises a housing (34), disposed between the side flanges (36), on the opposite side from the slide (18) configured to receive a material (35) having fire-retardant properties.

7. (currently amended) ~~The device according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A device for the earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor (2) and a ceiling (4), said partition having a framework comprised of a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and configured to connect to substantially vertical uprights for connecting the upper and lower rails, the framework configured to fixably connect with a covering (6), the device comprising:

a slide (18) of profiled section, having arms (22) forming a substantially U-shaped section and configured to be joined to the upper rail (10);

a top runner (30) comprised of a rail with two side flanges (36) extending parallel to and within the arms (22) of the U-shaped section of the slide (18) such that the slide (18) and the top runner (30) are movable relative to each other in a vertical direction, the top runner being configured to be fixed to the ceiling (4);

reversible snap-fitting means between the slide (18) and the top runner (30), the snap-fitting means comprised of first and second matching bosses (26, 38), the first boss projecting inward respective of the flanges (36) of the top runner, and the second boss projecting inward respective of the arms of the slide; and

at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) disposed in the top runner (30),

wherein the slide (18) and top runner (30) are each mounted to move relative to each other in a vertical direction, and

wherein the first boss (26) is configured, in a resting position, to locate in the second boss (38).

8. (previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein said anchorage reinforcing member (16) is constituted by a U-section member disposed transversely with respect to the slide (18) and the top runner (30).

9. (previously presented) A partition, comprising:
a device according to claim 1;
a substantially horizontal lower rail (8);
a substantially horizontal upper rail (10) connected to said device;

substantially vertical uprights connecting said lower rail (8) and said upper rail (10); and

a covering (6) fixed to said upper and lower rails.

10. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein an upper portion of the covering (6) is fixed so as not to extend beyond the slide (18) forming a free space between the covering (6) and the ceiling (4), said space configured to be filled by a joint (48) of elastic material.

11. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein the covering boards (6) are mounted so as to be floating with respect to the lower rail (8).

12. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein a flexible mastic joint (46) is provided between the floor (2) and the covering (6) fixed to the framework.

13. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) is disposed transversely in the lower rail (8).

14. (previously presented) A partition, comprising:
a first rail (8) extending in a first direction;
a second rail (10) spaced from said first rail and extending in the first direction;
a device configured to mount said second rail (10) on a surface; and
a body (6) extending between said first and second rails (8, 10) and fixed to said first and second rails (8, 10),
wherein the second rail (10) is configured to join with said device,
wherein the device is comprised of a slide (18) of profiled section with arms (22) forming a substantially U-shaped

section configured to be joined to the second rail (10), a runner (30) configured to be fixed to the surface and comprised of a third rail with two side flanges (36) extending parallel to and within the arms (22) of the U-shaped section of the slide (18) such that the slide (18) and the runner (30) are movable relative to each other in the first direction, and reversible snap-fitting means between the slide (18) and the runner (30), the snap-fitting means comprised of first and second matching bosses (26, 38), the first boss projecting inward respective of the flanges (36) of the runner, and the second boss projecting inward respective of the arms of the slide,

wherein the slide (18) and the runner are each mounted to move relative to each other in the first direction, and

wherein the first boss (26) is configured, in a resting position, to locate in the second boss (38).

15. (previously presented) A device for earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor and a ceiling, comprising:

a framework comprised of a first rail that is substantially horizontal and connectable to a substantially vertical upright connectable to a second rail, the framework configured to fixably connect with a covering;

a slide of profiled section joined to the first rail along a vertical direction, the slide having two arms forming a substantially U-shaped section;

a runner rail, the slide being mounted to the runner rail, the runner rail having two side flanges extending parallel to and within the two arms of the U-shaped section of the slide, the runner rail being configured to be fixed to a horizontal surface,

wherein the slide and runner rail are movable relative to each other in the vertical direction, and

wherein the slide and the runner rail respectively have first and second bosses, the first boss located on the the flanges of the runner rail, the second boss located on the arms of the U-shaped section of the slide, and

wherein, in a resting position of the slide and the runner rail along the vertical direction, the first and second bosses are configured to reversibly engage with each other in reversible snap-fit enagement.

16. (previously presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the slide comprises, at free ends of each of the arms of the U-shaped section, a rim extending outwardly of the U of the U-shaped section, substantially perpendicular to the arms of the U.

17. (previously presented) The device according to claim 16, further comprising:

an elastic joint located between a rim of the slide (18) and the horizontal surface on which the runner rail is fixed.

18. (previously presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the runner rail also comprises a housing disposed between the side flanges and on an opposite side from the slide, the housing configured to receive a material having fire-retardant properties.

19. (previously presented) The device according to claim 15, further comprising:

at least one anchorage reinforcing member disposed in the runner rail.

20. (previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein said anchorage reinforcing member comprises a U-section member disposed transversely with respect to the slide and the runner rail.